Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 12698 291823Z ACTION EUR-12

R 291824Z APR 77 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2294 INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ELAB, FR

SUBJECT: CGT CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO NEGOTIATE

- 1. EMBOLDENED BY THE IMPACT, BOTH PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL, OF THE APRIL 28 STRIKE (SEE PARIS 12528), AND THE OBVIOUS DISARRAY OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE COMMUNIST-LED CGT HAS CALLED ON THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE NATIONAL EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION (CNPF) TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH IT, OR ELSE. STRESSING THAT, "THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CNPF WILL FIND THE CGT WILLING TO REACH ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS QUICKLY," THE UNION'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STATED THAT A REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE WILL LEAD IT TO INTENSIFY THE STRUGGLE ON ALL LEVELS, AND SEEK NEW WAYS OF UNITING ALL THE WORKERS IN AN EVEN STRONGER "ACTION".
- 2. CGT GENERAL SECRETARY SEGUY, SPEAKING IN A RADIO INTERVIEW, GAVE THE GOVERNMENT TWO TO THREE WEEKS TO ACT. AFTER THAT, HE SAID, THE CGT WILL CALL UPON ALL THE UNIONS AND ESPECIALLY THE CFDT TO JOIN IN A FOLLOW-UP TO APRIL 28. THE TIME-FRAME POSED BY SEGUY (WHOSE TACTIC OF SPEAKING FOR AND OFFERING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO NEGOTIATE IN BEHALF OF ALL ORGANIZED LABOR MUST BE ESPECIALLY GALLING TO HIS JUNIOR PARTNER MAIRE OF THE CFDT) APPEARS LINKED TO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CGT AND CFDT METALWORKERS FEDERATIONS TO HOLD A NATIONAL STRIKE ON MAY 17. THAT DATE ALSO FALLS AFTER THE FO CONVENTION, WHEN THERE WILL NO LONGER BE AN EASY WAY FOR FO TO SIDE-STEP THE ISSUE OF

UNION SOLIDARITY IN THE FACE OF A WEAKENING	G GOVERNMENT.
GAMMON	

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